Amendments to the claims:

1. (previously presented) An electric machine (10) for driving functional elements in a motor vehicle, which includes a rotor shaft (12) that is rotatably supported in a housing part (16) of a housing via a roller bearing (22, 20), an axial spring element (32) being located between the roller bearing (22, 20) and a rotor component (34) on the rotor shaft (12), wherein the axial spring element (32) includes an inner ring (40) and an outer ring (42), which are interconnected in an axially resilient manner, and the outer ring (42) is connected with the rotor component (34) for a joint rotation relative to the housing part (16), wherein an inner diameter of the inner ring (40) forms a clearance fit with an outer diameter of the rotor shaft, thereby simplifying axial installation and axial backlash compensation of the spring element, wherein the rotor component (34) and not the rotor shaft (12) is configured to perform radial guidance of the spring element, and wherein for assembling the electrical machine (10), the axial spring element (32) is fixed in position at least axially on the pre-installed rotor (13), such that the rotor (13) is insertable overhead via a blind assembly into the roller bearing 22, which was previously installed in housing part 16.

2. (original) The electric machine (10) as recited in Claim 1, wherein the inner ring (40) and the outer ring (42) of the spring element (32) are interconnected via resilient segments (44).

3. (previously presented) The electric machine (10) as recited in Claim 1, wherein the roller bearing (22, 20) includes an inner part (28), which accommodates the rotor shaft (12), and an outer part (24) supported in the housing part (16); the inner ring (40) of the spring element (32) bears axially against inner part (28) – and, in particular, not against the outer part (24) – of the roller bearing (22, 20).

4. (previously presented) The electric machine (10) as recited in Claim 1, wherein the resilient segments (44) are located in a spiral formation around the rotor shaft (40), and the inner ring (40) is rotatable relative to outer ring (42), when an axial load is placed on the spring element (32).

5. (previously presented) The electric machine (10) as recited in Claim 1, wherein the inner ring (40) has a larger inner diameter (52) than the outer diameter (54) of the rotor shaft (12), and the inner ring (40) does not bear against the rotor shaft (12).

6. (previously presented) The electric machine (10) as recited in Claim 1, wherein the outer ring (42) includes a radial, circumferential outer wall (46) with a cylindrical outer surface that forms a press connection (45) with a cylindrical recess (38) in the rotor component (34).

7. (previously presented) The electric machine (10) as recited in Claim 1, wherein the outer ring (42) is fixed in position axially on the rotor component (34) using a detent connection (70), a rear section (66), a bayonet connection, or a material deformation.

8. (previously presented) The electric machine (10) as recited in Claim 1, wherein the rotor component (34) is designed as an armature lamination core, and the housing part (16) is designed as a pole pot (14).

9. (previously presented) The electric machine (10) as recited in Claim 1, wherein the roller bearing (22, 20) is designed as a floating bearing (22, 20) located on the end of the rotor shaft (12), and the rotor shaft (12) is also supported in the housing via at least one fixed bearing.

10. (previously presented) An axial spring element (32), in particular as recited in Claim 1, wherein the axial spring element (32) includes an inner ring (40) and a concentric outer ring (42) having a larger diameter (47), inner ring (40) and concentric outer ring (42) being interconnected in an axially resilient manner via elastic segments (44) located in a spiral formation, and the outer ring (42) includes a reinforcement (48, 50) for fixing the outer ring (42) in position axially on a rotor component (34).

11. (previously presented) The electric machine as defined in Claim 8, wherein the outer ring is attached directly to an end face of the armature lamination core, wherein said armature lamination core has multiple lamella layers.

12. (currently amended) An electric machine (10) for driving functional elements in a motor vehicle, which includes a rotor shaft (12) that is rotatably supported in a housing part (16) of a housing via a roller bearing (22, 20), an axial spring element (32) being located between the roller bearing (22, 20) and a rotor component (34) on the rotor shaft (12), where in the axial spring element (32) Includes an inner ring (40) and an outer ring (42), which are interconnected in an axially resilient manner, and the outer ring (42) is connected with the rotor component (34) for a joint rotation relative to the housing part (16), wherein the rotor component (34) is designed as an armature lamination core, and the housing part (16) is designed as a pole pot (14), and wherein the outer ring is attached directly to an end face of the armature lamination core, wherein said armature lamination core has multiple lamella layers, wherein the outer ring (42) includes a radial, circumferential outer wall (46) with a cylindrical outer surface that forms a press connection (45) with a cylindrical recess (38) in the rotor component (34).

13. (new) An electric machine (10) for driving functional elements in a motor vehicle, which includes a rotor shaft (12) that is rotatably supported in a housing part (16) of a housing via a roller bearing (22, 20), an axial spring

element (32) being located between the roller bearing (22, 20) and a rotor component (34) on the rotor shaft (12), where in the axial spring element (32) includes an inner ring (40) and an outer ring (42), which are interconnected in an axially resilient manner, and the outer ring (42) is connected with the rotor component (34) for a joint rotation relative to the housing part (16), wherein the rotor component (34) is designed as an armature lamination core, and the housing part (16) is designed as a pole pot (14), and wherein the outer ring is attached directly to an end face of the armature lamination core, wherein said armature lamination core has multiple lamella layers, wherein the outer ring (42) is fixed in position axially on the rotor component (34) using a detent connection (70), a rear section (66), a bayonet connection, or a material deformation.

14. (new) An electric machine (10) for driving functional elements in a motor vehicle, which includes a rotor shaft (12) that is rotatably supported in a housing part (16) of a housing via a roller bearing (22, 20), an axial spring element (32) being located between the roller bearing (22, 20) and a rotor component (34) on the rotor shaft (12), where in the axial spring element (32) includes an inner ring (40) and an outer ring (42), which are interconnected in an axially resilient manner, and the outer ring (42) is connected with the rotor component (34) for a joint rotation relative to the housing part (16), wherein the rotor component (34) is designed as an armature lamination core, and the housing part (16) is designed as a pole pot (14), and wherein the outer ring is attached directly to an end face of the armature lamination core, wherein said

armature lamination core has multiple lamella layers, wherein on the lamination core, a recess (38) is formed, wherein the outer ring engages in said recess (38), wherein to form the recess (38), some of said lamella layers have a larger annular recess (38) than an uppermost lamina layer on an end face (36) of the rotor component (34).